

Library Clerk Expands Japanese Book Collection and Promotes Cultural Awareness

Looking back on the path that has taken her from Tokyo, Japan to a Clerk career at University Park Library in Irvine, Sawako Kono believes the journey was meant to be.

As an elementary school student, Sawako was inspired by her father, an English teacher, as well as a friendly librarian she loved to visit after class and help by completing small chores around the office. Before graduating college and earning her bachelor's degree in English Literature, the university presented Sawako with the option of completing either a teaching credential or librarian course. "Without hesitation, I selected the librarian option," she said.

After finishing her education, Sawako accepted a position with Pioneer Electronics whose Vice President traveled between Tokyo and the organization's offices in Southern California. "I had always felt the desire to leave Japan and explore the world," she said. "Then, one day, the executive mentioned that he and his wife shared a large home in Los Angeles that felt empty ever since their children had moved out. He offered to let me live with them, provide me with secretarial work, and sponsor my green card."

Two years later, Sawako transitioned into employment with Japanese-owned trading companies and next sold real estate to Japanese business owners looking to purchase commercial properties in the LA area. "When the economy slowed down, my life became too quiet," she recalls. "I remembered then how I had always



Sawako Kono

wanted to do something in a library, and decided to donate my time."

As a volunteer with the Orange County Public Libraries' (OCPL) Heritage Park branch and Friends of the Library bookstore, Sawako learned nearby University Park had an opening for a Page position. "I thought, wow, this might be a good fit," she said. When a Clerk position at the circulation desk became available, she was encouraged to apply and got the job.

Having spent several years inside the branch familiarizing herself with the needs of the patrons, Sawako discovered a threefold challenge she decided to tackle: (1) it was difficult for people in the community to purchase new books in Japanese because the high craftsmanship and currency exchange rate made

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them too expensive, (2) these folks were often completely unaware the library offered books in Japanese they could borrow for free, and (3) the existing Japanese book collection was small compared to offerings in other languages and needed renovation.

"I requested permission from my manager to begin seeking donations to improve and expand our Japanese book section," Sawako said. "I created flyers and posted them in nearby Japanese supermarkets, sent articles to local publications, and wow – donations just poured in!"

Sawako's efforts were recognized by OCPL in November of 2011, when she was presented with the Director's Award from County Librarian Helen Fried. "Sawako's personal commitment to excellence has led her to increase the University Park Library's Japanese book collection by seeking donations valued at more than \$56,000 worth of new Japanese material," Fried said.

"Her personal pride in her work is very much appreciated and is an inspiration to all of us."

In addition to these efforts, Sawako has spent over a year cataloging OCPL's Japanese book collection at headquarters and is now promoting cultural awareness and engagement by hosting events at University Park such as Japanese tea ceremonies and story-time sessions. "It gives young mothers the opportunity to pass the language on to their children," she said. "Many of these moms know little English and leave feeling less isolated after having spent time making friends with other women who speak Japanese."

What's next for Sawako? She hopes to keep building momentum by gathering more Japanese children's books. Donations may be dropped off at the front desk at University Park Library, 4512 Sandburg Way, Irvine. Please visit <http://ocpl.org/libloc/iup/calendar> to learn more about upcoming events at the branch. ■

Wright to Lead OC Waste & Recycling



Dylan G. Wright

The appointment of Dylan G. Wright to serve as Director of OC Waste & Recycling was announced August 20 by Mark Denny, the County's Chief Operating Officer.

Wright, who has 17 years of combined public and private sector solid waste industry experience, had served as Interim Director of OC Waste & Recycling since May 2013. His previous experience with the department includes serving as Deputy Director, Business Services and Deputy Director, Government & Community Relations. "There were many highly qualified candidates for the opportunity to lead OC Waste & Recycling. Dylan's experience in the industry, demonstrated track record in positions of progressive responsibility with OC Waste & Recycling and his proven ability to lead staff in the accomplishment of departmental goals and objectives were important factors in his selection," said Denny.

Wright joined the County in April 2001 as an Engineering Technician III with the Integrated

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Waste Management Department, now known as OC Waste & Recycling. He became a manager in the department's Contract Administration Unit in May 2004, advancing in August 2006 to become Manager of Waste Disposal Contracts. Wright received his Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Pepperdine University and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from California State University, Long Beach. He is a graduate of the Orange County Leadership Academy, a County leadership development program.

OC Waste & Recycling manages one of the nation's premiere solid waste disposal systems serving Orange County's residents and businesses. On behalf of 34 cities and over three million residents, OC Waste & Recycling operates a network of three active landfills and four household hazardous waste collection centers. ■

Students Given In-Depth Look at Criminal Justice System

During the 14th annual Summer Youth Education Conference, 27 Orange County high school students were given a behind the scenes look at what it would be like to become a prosecutor, police detective or judge.

The week-long program began August 5th and included 35 to 40 hours of hands-on activities that concluded with a mock trial and graduation ceremony. "This program is a great way for young people in our community to learn about the criminal justice system," said District Attorney Tony Rackauckas. "Working with local teens is extremely important in helping these kids choose a positive path."

The Summer Youth Education Conference gave students interested in law enforcement a better understanding of the criminal justice system by allowing them to visit numerous government agencies and meet with professionals who work in the field. Throughout the week, participants visited Santa Ana Police Department headquarters, observed the firing range room, and met with K-9 officers. They also stopped by the Coroner's office and the Sheriff's Department Training Facility to learn about the Bomb Squad, bomb sniffing dogs, tactical training and defensive driving.

At week's end, the students discovered the importance of evidence to a trial from staff at the

OCDA SLIDESHOW: CLICK HERE



Students visit the Orange County Sheriff's Training Facility during the Summer Youth Education Conference. Please click here to view a slideshow of photos from the event.

Orange County Crime Lab, and met with staff from the U.S. Marshal's Office, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Probation as well as a U.S. District Judge at the Reagan Federal Building and Courthouse in Santa Ana.

Applications for the 2014 program will be accepted between February and April of 2014. This program is open to high school students between ages 16 and 18 years old. For more information, please visit the District Attorney's website at www.orangecountyda.com and select "Summer Youth Education Conference" under Education and Resources. ■

Registration Underway for United Way Leadership Breakfast

The County of Orange 2013 United Way Leadership Breakfast will take place Thursday, September 19th at the Westin South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa.

Tickets to this event include self-parking and cost \$30 presale, \$35 at the door, or \$300 for a table of ten. Please [click here](#) to download the payment and registration form. RSVPs are requested by Monday, September 9th.

Since 1979, County employees have partnered with the Orange County United Way and rallied to raise money to support local community programs. The United Way is a fund-raising network that coordinates the charitable giving of large agencies and businesses. The United Way then distributes these donations to hundreds of non-profits that help meet local social service needs.

Additional information about this year's United Way campaign will be posted to the Intranet site as it becomes available. ■



County Honored By Navy Reserve

The strong support demonstrated by the County of Orange for employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserves was recently recognized at a Navy Employer Recognition Event in Virginia.

Chief Probation Officer Steve Sentman represented the County at the July 26-27 event after being nominated by a Navy Reservist who works for the Probation Department. The County of Orange was one of 39 employers selected nationwide to participate in this event recognizing the County's exceptional support. "After attending the Naval Employer Recognition Event, I have a whole new respect for people who serve in the Reserves," Sentman stated. "They must truly balance their private life with the responsibility that comes with serving in the military."

During the event, employers were recognized at an awards ceremony and toured local bases in-



During the Navy Employer Recognition Event, Chief Probation Officer Steve Sentman learned more about the role of Navy Reservists in today's military.

cluding Naval Station Norfolk. During their tour, they got an up-close look at the USS Arleigh Burke, a guided missile destroyer, and met members of Reserve Seal Team 18. The Chief of Navy Reserve, Vice Admiral Robin Braun was on hand to thank the employers. "Employer

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support is critical to the Navy Reserve mission. They enable our Navy Reserve sailors to serve America on a part-time basis, be ready for full-time duty if called, and to return to work when their military service is complete," said Vice Admiral Braun.

In recognition of the contributions made by those in the National Guard and Reserves, the Probation Department has a display at its headquarters with pictures of department employees in their military uniforms. "It's great that the County provides its employees with this opportunity and the display is our chance to publicly recognize those who are serving both the County of Orange and our country," Sentman noted. ■



Representatives from 39 employers nationwide toured Navy facilities in Virginia and are pictured here in front of the USS Arleigh Burke, a guided missile destroyer. Chief Probation Officer Steve Sentman is at the far right.

OC Crime Lab Observes Forensic Sciences Week

OC CRIME LAB SLIDESHOW: [CLICK HERE](#)



DNA Lab Director Elizabeth Thompson addresses members of the media, backed by press conference participants (l-r) Tony Rackauckas, District Attorney; Sandra Hutchens, Sheriff-Coroner; Mike Giancola, County Executive Officer; Bruce Houlihan, OC Crime Lab Director; Jennifer Harmon, OC Crime Lab Assistant Director; Lisa Zinn, OC Crime Lab Assistant Director; and Pennie Laferty, OC Crime Lab Assistant Director.

Members of the local media received a behind the scenes look at the workings of the OC Crime Lab as part of an August 14 press conference and tour highlighting National Forensic Sciences Week.

Sheriff-Coroner Sandra Hutchens, District Attorney Tony Rackauckas and County Executive

Officer Mike Giancola provided comments on the importance of the OC Crime Lab to public safety in Orange County and saluted the lab as one of the finest in the nation. The Crime Lab first opened in 1948 and today features high-tech equipment and processes that have allowed the lab to gain international accreditation.

In 2012, the OC Crime Lab processed over 64,000 items of evidence and handled more than 34,000 cases. OC Crime Lab Director Bruce Houlihan stressed that the lab exists to serve the public and relies on its highly trained staff to achieve its mission. "What makes forensic science different is that it is very dependent on the people who work in this lab," Houlihan stated.

The OC Crime Lab tour offered examples of how high-tech and more traditional methods of evidence analysis combine to not only identify potential suspects in crimes but can also be used to demonstrate that an individual did not commit a crime. Recent areas of increased

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emphasis for the OC Crime Lab include testing for certain illegal and prescription drugs in cases where the driver of a motor vehicle is suspected of driving under the influence and the use of DNA analysis in the investigation of property crimes.

For more information about the OC Crime Lab, visit their website at <http://ocsd.org/divisions/prof/crimelab/>. ■

OC Animal Care's Event



Monday
any

Friday
varieties

Party
(of) pets!

Saturday, September 21st
10 am - 2 pm
OC Animal Care
561 The City Dr.
Orange, 92868

Join us in celebrating the great varieties of pets we have at OC Animal Care! You'll have a chance to interact with some of our most popular breeds in our shelter courtyard! We hope to see you there!

FREE Spay/Neuter!

For more information, please visit our website at www.ocpetinfo.com or call (714) 935-6848

District Attorney's Event



KEEP CALM AND BEAT H.E.A.T.

Orange County District Attorney's Human Exploitation And Trafficking (HEAT) Unit

Rocking & Rally

Join elected officials and uniformed Orange County law enforcement to rally against exploitation and trafficking of humans. Concert immediately following with food trucks and free frozen yogurt for all.

Twila Reid Park
3100 W Orange Ave, Anaheim

Sept. 9, 2013 | 5-8PM

Contact and RSVP:
Chief of Staff Susan Kang Schroeder
(714) 847-8408 or beatHEAT@da.oca.gov

FREE FROZEN YOGURT

Clerk-Recorder Saturday Hours



Orange County Clerk-Recorder Department
Special Saturday Opening

Saturday, September 21, 2013
10:00am - 3:00pm

North County Branch Office	Old Orange County Courthouse	South County Branch Office
201 N. Harbor Blvd. Fullerton, CA 92832	211 W. Santa Ana Blvd. Santa Ana, CA 92701	24031 El Toro Rd., Suite #150 Laguna Hills, CA 92653
Services Available: Copies of property records Birth, death, and marriage certificates Marriage licenses and ceremonies	Services Available: Marriage licenses and ceremonies Passport application processing Archives *Passport photos available for \$15	Services Available: Copies of property records Birth, death, and marriage certificates Marriage licenses and ceremonies

Reservations for civil wedding ceremonies and passports are recommended due to limited space. Please call (714) 834-2500 for more information.

Free parking will be available at all three locations!

For more information regarding our services and fees, please visit our website at:
www.ocrecorder.com

Get the 411 on the OC Rideshare Program

- OC Rideshare is a Human Resource Services program developed for County and Superior Court employees. The goal of the program is to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion while providing employees with commute options. This is done by presenting alternatives to driving alone plus providing special incentives to start and continue ridesharing.
- Ridesharing generally includes commuting to work by carpool, vanpool, bus, train, bicycle or walking. Often, employees rideshare some days and drive alone on other days. The reduction of solo commuting is measured each September through the Annual All Employees Transportation Survey.
- Some of the popular services include the Carpool Classifieds, the Guaranteed Ride Home program and Try-Transit-On-Us. Employees may also purchase monthly transit and van-pool fares with pre-tax dollars through the payroll deduction process.
- Rideshare participants receive startup incentives and a monthly e-Bulletin highlighting monthly drawing winners, contests, promotions, merchant discounts and transit alerts about service changes. Rideshare participants spread the word through the “Tell Us Your Story” and “Refer a Coworker” campaigns.
- The OC Rideshare Team presents information through the quarterly **OC Commuter Newsletter**, at the monthly new hire orientation meetings, via regional efforts such as Rideshare Week and at special employee events.

To learn more about the OC Rideshare Program, please visit:
<http://ocgov.com/hr/rideshare>.



Service Awards

For the Month of August

30 YEARS

Jeff Wermers
OC Community Resources

Jean Wilkinson
Public Defender

Michael Hiller
Sheriff-Coroner

Nathan Nishimoto
Social Services Agency

Colleen Avila
Treasurer- Tax Collector

25 YEARS

Veronica Benitez
Health Care Agency

Luis Martinez
Health Care Agency

Dean Clarke
Health Care Agency

Merida S. Hughes
Health Care Agency

Pam Ickes
Health Care Agency

Blanca Estela Ortiz
Health Care Agency

Dan Yokoyama
Health Care Agency

Rhodora Gomez
Human Resource Services

Michael Goodwin
Internal Audit

Jesus Gonzalez
John Wayne Airport

Stella Carruth
OC Community Resources
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25 YEARS CONTINUED

Gary Palmer
OC Public Works

Gerald Anderson
OC Public Works

Daniel Bigger
OC Public Works

Christopher Rutland
OC Public Works

Kevin Wilson
OC Public Works

John Benson
OC Waste & Recycling

Brian Cochran
Probation

Maria Lange
Probation

Kathy Hoppel Martin
Probation

Maureen Obbink
Probation

Desiree Tilford
Probation

Kimberly Stansfield
Sheriff-Coroner

Cindy Gaytan
Social Services Agency

Donna Jefferson
Social Services Agency

Kimberly Tran
Social Services Agency

Elizabeth Mikkelsen
Social Services Agency

20 YEARS

Laura Garcia
Child Support Services

Florinda Carbajal
Health Care Agency

Tiffany Huynh
Health Care Agency

Susan Pollard
Health Care Agency

Veronica Ramirez
Health Care Agency

Brent Ward
Probation

Jeanne Cummins
Probation

Maria Velazquez
Public Guardian

Carlos Castro
Sheriff-Coroner

Jeremy Darett
Sheriff-Coroner

Randy Ensley
Sheriff-Coroner

Carla Hefler
Sheriff-Coroner

Richard Nelson
Sheriff-Coroner

Michael Nixon
Sheriff-Coroner

Jeffrey Schnell
Sheriff-Coroner

Maria Ayala
Social Services Agency

Jesus Hernandez
Social Services Agency

Amanda Hoang
Social Services Agency

Colette Kim-Ablog
Social Services Agency

Sonia Ruiz
Social Services Agency

Carmen Sevilla
Social Services Agency

COUNTY OF ORANGE

MISSION STATEMENT

“Making Orange County a safe, healthy, and fulfilling place to live, work, and play, today and for generations to come, by providing outstanding, cost-effective regional public services.”

Click [here](#) to read the full mission and values statement.

CONTACT US

COUNTY CONNECTION is distributed monthly by the County Executive Office and is published by CEO Community/Media Relations. Call 714.834.6203 or e-mail ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com with any suggestions and comments.

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